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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

6 September 1979
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MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM :

National Intelligence Officer for Conventional Forces

SUBJECT : Assessment of Control and Use of Naval Facilities
at Cienfuegos, Cuba

REFERENCE : Your memorandum, dated 1 June 1979, same subject
and related memoranda from Dr. Bowie to Colonel
Odom, dated 4 June 1979

1. The NSC Staff has called for a reaffirmation of our assessment
(and citation of any new evidence).

2. In addition, they would like us to comment on the size of the
naval facilities at Cienfuegos, in the context of those available for
the Cuban navy elsewhere. They have asked whether the new facilities
being constructed at Cienfuegos together with the facilities available
elsewhere do not constitute a naval establishment of size and sophistication
beyond what might reasonably be expected for the current Cuban navy, or
the Cuban navy we project for the mid-1980s. (These questions suggest
NSC staffer interest in our reassessment and reaffirmation or changing
our judgements about Soviet intentions to provide, through the mechanism
of a naval shore establishment in excess of Cuban needs basing capacity
for Soviet operations in the western Atlantic/Caribbean area).

3. While you need not comment, you should be aware that there
is a recent article in a Defense-oriented journal contending that the
Soviets see Cuba as a potential base for operations against NATO's
Sealines of Communications, since the bulk of U.S. armor reinforcements
would have to be moved from ports in Texas through the Florida Straits.

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4. If possible, see me around 1300, so that we can discuss how to handle the foregoing. The product should be a type-script memo of no more than one or two paragraphs (unless you have some blockbuster).

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